

Executive Registry
60-6448/A

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Aug

Mrs. Samuel Senenfield *Carol*

Dear Mrs. Senenfield:

I have received and have read with close attention your thoughtful letter of August 18, 1960, raising a number of questions with regard to the Powers trial.

As you can well appreciate, many of the points on which you asked my comment, are still in the classified field, and it would not be possible for me to write you about them. Furthermore, even though the trial itself is over, Powers is still a prisoner of the Soviet and we should be careful in our comments that we do nothing to make his own situation more difficult.

Possibly some day you will be passing through Washington, and I will have an opportunity to talk with you further about some of the points you raise.

At this time about all I would add is that you should take into account the fact that Powers was over a hundred days in solitary confinement without access to family, friends, his own legal advisors, or any U.S. Embassy representative prior to the trial, that undoubtedly the Soviets had drummed into his mind what they wished to come out of the trial, and that this can be done and be effective even short of the techniques of "brain washing," as in the Korean cases to which you refer.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE 5)

Also, I want you to know that in selecting the pilots for such difficult missions, no one went out into the open market to try to lure candidates by the pay scale, which, I may add, is about equivalent to that which a chief pilot on one of our airlines receives today. On the contrary, persons whose past training and other technical, mental and ideological outlook seemed to qualify them for this job, were chosen on the basis of these qualifications and willingness to serve with full knowledge of the dangers. There never was a sought applicant for these positions.

Sharing with you fully the sentiments you express in the closing paragraph of your letter, I only wish I could be more responsive at this time, but it would not be in the interests of the prisoner or of national security to do so.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) ALLEN W. DULLES

Allen W. Dulles
Director

DPD-DD/P:JAC:mg (23 Aug 60)

Rewritten AWD:at

Distribution:

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1 cc - DCI

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1 cc - DPD

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Mr Allen Dulles
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

60-6448

My dear Mr Dulles:
Are you at liberty to comment
on the following observation? I
have been reading the Chicago Tribune
account of the ^{Q-2} contract arrangement
between the CIA & Lockheed Aircraft
Co. whereby Lockheed provided
pilots, planes & maintenance, the pilots
being under a civilian contract. Mr
Powers was one of these, who was
captured & is now claiming
ignorance of the overall ~~strategy~~ ^{strategy}
& what seems to me to be a
basic lack of conviction about
his minute but important role
in our national defense effort.

I note some similarity in his
presentation, as reported, and

the reports of our Korean war
prisoners who reported that they
disturbed about this "I am
a mere unthinking pawn" role.
expressed by this college educated
man, with Air Force Training.
So me it seems to indicate
either a lack of elementary orientation
to the American goal & way of life,
or else a deliberate & calculated
choice of personnel who have no
personal commitments beyond the
financial rewards of a well paying
job. I am distressed at the new
reports of Powers as the poor boy
victim of our system. This, of course
is what the Russians ^{wish} to have
& the questions reflect this, & may
also be designed to elicit sympathy
for him as such. However my
question remains - is this kind
of person the best to use because,
if apprehended ~~he can~~ ^{he can} honestly
disassociate himself from every
aspect of the effort except that
of piloting the planes. And, if

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this is true why was he provided
with what was termed, suicide
equipment?"

Perhaps I am criticizing the
contract arrangement plan which
is now formally revealed. Such
a contract, even with the appropriate
clearance which I am sure your
Agency makes, might well attract
persons of Powers background
whom I fear lack the personal
stamina when the going gets rough
but who perform adequately for
good pay, on routine assignment.
I am inclined to favor the use of
Air Force, specially qualified & paid.
Knowing, as I do from overseas war
service, the importance of the individual's
identification with some established
group & tradition.

I am a very proud & grateful
American and also an inquisitive
one. Could you answer this when
you feel it suitable. It is for my
own information only. Thank you
Very truly,
John Edgar Hoover



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Mrs. Samuel Sonenfield

[Redacted address box]

Dear Mrs. Sonenfield:

I am replying to your letter of August 18th on behalf of Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director of Central Intelligence.

Unfortunately for the purposes of your inquiry, this Agency is not in a position to comment upon the proceedings of the recent Powers' trial in Moscow. Nevertheless, your thoughtful comments have received careful consideration, and are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature box]

Assistant to the Director

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles

Attached is our proposed reply to a very thoughtful letter from Mrs. Donenfield concerning the U-2 trial and Powers' performance therein. This may be the forerunner of additional correspondence generated by the trial so before sending this reply, I thought I would get your reaction to it.



FMC
24 August 60

(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

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Wills to Sonfield

AUG 18

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*Mr Allen Dulles
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington*

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Remarks:

Dick:

The Director asks that you look this over and check it with anyone in DPD you think appropriate, and let him know if you have any reservations about his sending this on out.

17-3

DPD and I concur in this text.

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. DATE

O/DCI, 221 Admin, 8/28/60

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